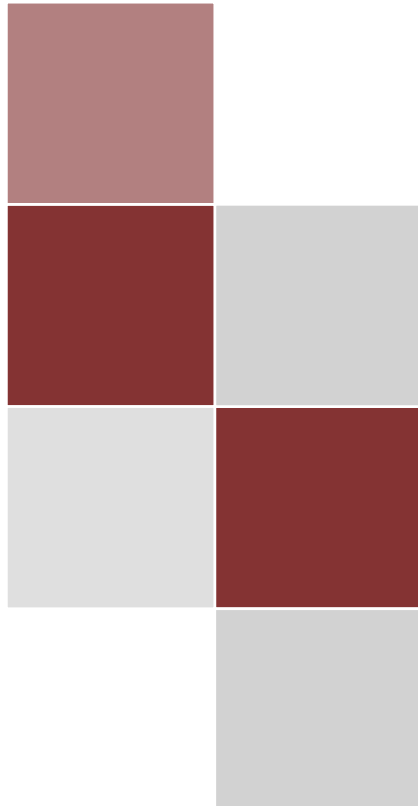




ILRI
INTERNATIONAL
LIVESTOCK RESEARCH
INSTITUTE



Personal security advice for ILRI staff and visitors to Coastal Kenya

August 2012

Area

The area of Coast covers the entire Coast province with the exception of the northern Tana River District and areas in Lamu East and West located north of 2 degrees south.

Coast Area includes the districts of Malindi, Taita Taveta, Kilifi, Kwale, Mombasa, Bura, Kaloleni, Kilindini, Kinango, Lamu East (south of 2 degrees South), Lamu West (south of 2 degrees south) and Msambweni

General security

Coast Province is in phase 1. However phase three requirements apply to the entire Tana River district. Mombasa is the second largest city in Kenya and the Provincial headquarters' of Coast province. Unlike Nairobi, general crime in Mombasa is relatively low. According to police statistics the most common incidents are robbery, thefts and muggings. In 2002, Mombasa was the target of terrorism and the threat remains to date, however the Government created an anti-terrorism police unit which continues to maintain a high presence in the entire Coast province. The entire Kenya Coastal line is quite popular with tourists both local and international due to its exotic nature. It is important for ILRI Staff members to adhere to the basic security precautions during their visit to the province.

Personal security

Street muggings can occur at any time of the day and night in Mombasa. Be alert and follow these simple rules:

- Keep to the main parts of Mombasa and don't be tempted to go to places that you are not sure of.
- Due to the threat of terrorism, you are advised to practice situational awareness at all times and visit areas that have effective security in place.
- Keep to the main roads and avoid short cuts down back alleys etc.
- When walking on the beach, try and avoid engaging the beach boys in prolonged discussion. This especially applies to the ladies.
- **Never walk at night** in the centre of Mombasa even for a short distance - always take a taxi.
- Be particularly wary of people hanging around outside hotels; it is a favorite place to catch tourists and mug them.
- Ignore the street children and people coming up to you in the streets with hard luck tales. Street children can become violent and the latter may be part of an elaborate scam or they might just simply be pick pockets. The best thing to do is just to walk on and ignore them.
- Do not carry large sums of money when shopping and do not wear expensive jewellery etc.
- Do not accept food and drink from strangers; visitors have known to be drugged and then robbed. When in a bar, never leave your drink unattended and as far as it is possible, drink from the bottle.

Credit card fraud

Few incidents of credit card fraud have been reported in Mombasa. However always ensure that you follow commonsense rules. Try and ensure that credit card slips are endorsed in your presence and if you have to use a slip as a deposit, always fill the amount in and check that you get the slip back.

Road travel

TRAVEL TIMES AND DISTANCES

Nairobi - Voi 332 kms – 4 hours

Voi - Taveta 100 kms – 2 hours

Voi – Mombasa 161 kms – 2 hours

Mombasa – Lunga Lunga 82 kms – 1hour

Mombasa - Kilifi 60 kms – 40 mins

Kilifi – Malindi 61 kms – 40 mins

Malindi – Garsen 105 kms – 11/2 hours

Taxis. Try and take taxis from licensed companies such as Payless or Kenatco. The local unlicensed taxis are often unreliable, unroadworthy and should be avoided. Always confirm the fare in advance if there is no meter. Never take a lift from a stranger.

Hire Cars. Only hire cars from a reputable car hire firm; a short list of some reputable car hire firms is overleaf. You can then be certain that you have the right insurance cover, the vehicle has been maintained and it will be in reasonably good condition.

Matatus and Buses. You are strongly advised to be extra cautious whenever you have to travel with the public transport, however exciting they might look. In the case of matatus, they are sometimes unroadworthy and badly driven and their accident record is appalling, particularly on up country routes.

Driving

Some of the roads in Mombasa and Coast Province in general are in a very poor state with some impassable. Therefore,

- Always drive defensively, expecting the worst and from the most unlikely sources.
- Keep doors locked and valuables out of sight when driving.
- Only open car windows 10 to 12 cms particularly when stopped at traffic lights etc. Necklaces and bags can easily be snatched.
- Never drive a vehicle when under the influence of Alcohol or any other intoxicant.

If you travel outside Mombasa, go well prepared and never **drive at night**.

- Tell someone where you are going and when you expect to be back.
- If you hire or borrow a vehicle make sure that it is in good condition.
- Take essential spares and some food and water.
- Be very reluctant to stop for people for help on the road side. Frequently they wait for people to stop and either rob you or steal your car.

Armed vehicle hijacking

Though not Common in Mombasa, some incidents of carjacking have been reported to the Police. It is therefore important for one to take precautions basic seriously. If you become the victim of a car hijacking do as you are told and do not resist the hijackers. Do not attempt to escape them by driving fast. If you comply, there is every chance that you will be released unharmed. Always take basic precautions highlighted above seriously. According to Police Statistics most of the current carjackers are petty criminals. They usually apply some of the tactics to trap their unsuspecting victims.

- The Good Samaritan –Someone appears to be in need of help and you stop to assist, then you get Carjacked.
- The Gate –The Carjackers Ambush you as you wait for the gate to your Residence to be opened.
- The Road block-They erect a road block in a road with little traffic of during the late hours of the night.
- The Accident – The Carjackers use a Second Vehicle to bump onto your car forcing you to stop.

Nb. This list of tactics is not exhaustive .However the best precaution one can take is to be Alert always **AND NEVER ATTEMPT TO BE A HERO** if you are confronted by carjackers.

Safaris

Mombasa undoubtedly has one of the best white sandy beaches and coral reefs that Africa has to offer. Coupled with an array of hotels on the beachfront situated along the North and South coasts of the town, it characterizes Mombasa as the ideal place for a vacation. This is why Mombasa is a major tourist destination, and the tourism industry the number one earner of foreign exchange in the country. Most tourist areas are usually safe but muggings and armed attacks can occur anywhere and at anytime. If you go to Lamu, you are strongly advised to fly; from Malindi to Garsen to Lamu the road is both insecure and in poor condition and you have to travel by convoy. Book your safaris through a reliable travel agent and you can then be fairly certain that any vehicle that is provided and the way the safari is conducted will be safely done. The official UN Travel Agents at Acharya can advise.

Thefts

When checking out of a hotel ensure that you keep briefcases, handbags and small luggage with you as these items are extremely attractive and have been stolen from inside hotel lobbies whilst guests are busy checking out. Always ensure that items which are attractive and valuable are kept out of sight.

Hotels

Mombasa has a host of hotels which offer 5 star there is a range to cater for most tastes and pockets. The Kenya Tourism Federation (KTF) assists tourists, tour companies, hotels and the general public who may have queries about safety and security aspects of local national parks and other tourist locations in Kenya. In case you are traveling somewhere or wish to find out about a certain location, please feel free to contact them as follows:

24-Hrs Help line: Nairobi (+254-020) 604-767

Fax: Nairobi (+254-020) 604-730

Mobile Nos: 0722-745-645/0733-617-499

Help

If you are involved in an incident, report it immediately to UN security in Mombasa who will then contact the Police and provide some assistance for you. The telephone numbers are listed below. If you become involved with the Police as a result of an incident, always make clear to them your UN status and make sure you carry some form of official identification, not necessarily with your wallet which you might have lost.

Useful telephone numbers

Emergency Numbers:

ILRI Control Room – 4223362, 0728 970722, 0733 634907

Police Emergency Service 999

Diplomatic Police Unit 0735356506 (Nairobi) 07625235/7625231 (Nairobi)

Chief of Tourist Police Unit 0710569788 (Mombasa)

Hospitals:

Aga Khan Hospital Mombasa,

Vanga Rd, Off Nyerere Ave

P. O. Box 83013 - 80100 Mombasa.

Tel: (41) - 2227710 Fax: (41) - 313278

Mobile: 0722205110, 0733641020

Mombasa Hospital,

Off Mama Ngina Drive

P. O. Box 90294 - 80100 Mombasa.

Tel: (41) - 2312191 Fax: (41) – 2229254

Taxis:

Kenatco Taxis Ltd

Ambalal Hse Nkrumah Rd

P. O. Box 88988 - 80100 Mombasa.

Tel: (41) - 2227503 Fax: (41) – 2221119

Car Hire:

Payless Car Hire & Tours Ltd

P. O. Box 86862 - 80100 Mombasa.

Tel(41)2496012 ; Fax (41) 2496013/331974/331973

Glory Car Hire Tours & Safaris Ltd Trans Ocean Hse Chembe Rd

P. O. Box 85527 - 80100 Mombasa

Tel: (41) – 2228063; Fax (41) - 2221196

Further information or assistance

ILRI Kenya Security Helpdesk

+254 20 4223000/3362, +254 728 970 722, +254 733 634 907

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